



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Dunbar, West Virginia 25064

Dear Mr. [REDACTED] Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Thank you for your electronic correspondence of January 17, 2014 to President Barack Obama, which was received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), regarding your concerns about the recent Elk River chemical spill in West Virginia. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the main federal law that ensures the quality of our nation's drinking water. SDWA authorizes the EPA to set national health-based standards to protect against naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water. EPA, states, and water systems work together to make sure that these standards are met. Most states directly oversee the water systems within their borders.

EPA sets standards for approximately 90 contaminants and indicators in drinking water. These contaminants, regulated under the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR), are legally enforceable standards that apply to public water systems. The chemicals cited in the recent spill event, 4-Methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM), propylene glycol phenyl ether (PPH) and dipropylene glycol phenyl ether (DiPPH), are not currently regulated by EPA under the NPDWR. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), few studies exist on the specialized chemical MCHM, and toxicologic information on PPH and DiPPH is limited.

However, EPA recognizes the need to continually evaluate new potential contaminants and collects data on unregulated contaminants through the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCM) program. The UCM regulation directs public water systems to collect data for contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the SDWA. Data collected through the program are used to support analysis and review of contaminant occurrence, to guide the candidate contaminant selection process, and to support the EPA Administrator's determination of whether to regulate a contaminant in the interest of protecting public health. The current round of UCM monitoring began last year and includes 30 contaminants (28 chemicals and 2 viruses). Additional information about the current round of UCM monitoring is available on our website: [water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr/ucmr3/basicinformation.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr/ucmr3/basicinformation.cfm)

The SDWA also directs public water systems to develop source water assessments. The source water assessment is a study that defines the land area contributing water to each public water system, identifies the major potential sources of contamination that could affect the drinking water supply, and determines how susceptible the public water supply is to this potential contamination. Utilities and citizens can then use the publicly available study results to take actions to reduce potential sources of contamination and protect drinking water. Information about the assessment is included in the yearly consumer confidence report that you receive from your water utility. Information is also available from

your state source water protection program. If interested, please contact William J. Toomey, Program Manager in the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health, at [william.j.toomey@wv.gov](mailto:william.j.toomey@wv.gov) .

If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Wanda Johnson, EPA's Drinking Water Program Manager for West Virginia, at (215) 814-3249.

Sincerely,

Jon C. Capacasa, Director  
Water Protection Division

cc: William Toomey, WVDHHR

consumer confidence report that you receive from your water utility. Information is also available from your state source water protection program. If interested, please contact William J. Toomey, Program Manager in the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health, at [william.j.toomey@wv.gov](mailto:william.j.toomey@wv.gov) .

If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Wanda Johnson, EPA's Drinking Water Program Manager for West Virginia, at (215) 814-3249.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hodgkiss, Director  
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division

cc: William Toomey, WVDHHR

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CONCURRENCES

SYMBOL								
SURNAME	Suero	Arguto	Blazek	Binetti	Watson	Capacasa	Hodgkiss	
DATE								

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